

Mercury Awareness Team
855 Trosper Road #108-174
Olympia, Washington 98512

July 22, 2005

Mike Gallagher, PBT Coordinator
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Gallagher,

The Mercury Awareness Team (MAT) would like to submit official comments on the "Rule making that will adopt a new rule. Chapter 173-333 WAC – Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins Regulations. that will establish Ecology's process and procedures to address the subject of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances".

The members of MAT want to thank the Department of Ecology for working so diligently on the first toxin on the chemical action plan – MERCURY. The team was glad that many of us had the opportunity to attend all the meetings on mercury and that our comments were well received from all of you. MAT was glad to contribute lots of documentation to show and support the danger of mercury dental fillings to the environment and human health. We know that we shared the article titled "Dentist the Menace" located on www.mercurypolicy.org and now we would like to share for the official record the recent report titled "Taking the Bite Out of Dental Mercury Pollution" located on www.mercurypolicy.org, too. This current report about dental mercury continues to show the role of dentists as contributors to the mercury pollution problem.

The members of MAT know that Department of Ecology has a wealth of information that shows the dangers of all mercury including mercury dental fillings to human health. We would like to ask the team at Department of Ecology to please share your information about the dangers of mercury dental fillings with the Department of Health and encourage the state of Washington to ban mercury dental fillings. We ask members of Department of Ecology to be leaders in educating other state agencies about the dangers of mercury dental fillings to the environment and human health. Your leadership will make our state a safer, healthier and better place for our children, your children and all the children of Washington.

MAT wants to go on record as saying that it is time to enforce a law that ALL dentists in the state of Washington have to install amalgam separators. The Department of Ecology knows that the voluntary program with dentists failed, and now it is time for dentists to become part of the mercury pollution solution.

The members of MAT know that the real solution to the mercury dental pollution problem is to stop using mercury dental fillings. There is NO cavity that would go unfilled if we stop using mercury dental fillings today. Why? There are alternative dental materials on the market today so NO need to use mercury dental fillings.

It is time to start protecting the uninformed dental consumers because these dental consumers have never been told that those silver amalgam dental fillings are 50% MERCURY.

It is time to stop giving low-income dental consumers CHEAP mercury dental fillings because it is cheap and they are poor.

MAT asks the Department of Ecology to enforce a mandatory dental separator – thank you. MAT also asks the Department of Ecology to support a strong public education program to educate the citizens of Washington about mercury dental fillings. Make dental consumers part of the mercury pollution solution.

Thank you,

Ann Clifton – Co-Chair of Mercury Awareness Team

Mary Ann Newell – Member of Mercury Awareness Team